

REMARKS

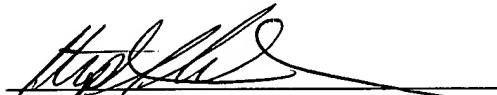
Claims 29 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,532,052 (Weaver). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 36 is allowable (if rewritten in independent form). The reasoning for such allowance is that the "prior art fails to teach cross-linking of these polymers subsequent to their introduction into the wells." Applicants note that Weaver likewise fails to teach the cross-linking of the polymers described in claims 29 and 49 subsequent to their introduction into the wells. For this reason, Applicant's believe that the same reasoning used in the allowance of claim 36 should also be applied to claims 29 and 49, thereby resulting in their allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 29 and 49 for the reasons provided above. Applicants further request that the Examiner allow claims 29, 36 and 49.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any fees to Deposit Account 19-0615(57.0272)

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Schlather
Reg. No., 45,081
Attorney for Applicants

Date: April 15, 2004
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
IP Dept. Well Stimulation
110 Schlumberger Drive, MD1
Ph: 281-285-4524
Fax: 281-285-8569